

REMARKS

The drawings stand objected to for introducing new matter, for informalities, and for not showing every feature of the invention as required by 37 CFR 1.83(a). The specification stands objected to for new matter. Claims 1, 3, 6, 15, 19, 25, and 26 stand objected to for informalities. Claims 1-18 and 21-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Claims 1-7, 9-13, 15-27, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Number JP 04-151711 to Mitsuhiro (hereinafter “Mitsuhiro”). Claims 8, 28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhiro.

For the Examiner’s convenience and reference, Applicants’ remarks are presented in substantially the same order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action. Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 12, 15, 16, and 18-25. Claims 26-30 are canceled. Claim 20 is amended to correct an informality not discussed below.

Response to objections to drawings.

The drawing received on January 4, 2006 is disapproved for introducing new matter, specifically the touch screen 120 and voice recognition system 122 simultaneously connected to the host 104. Applicants have amended Fig. 1A to remove the touch screen 120 and the voice recognition system 122.

The drawings are further objected to for not showing the touch screen of claim 28 and the voice recognition system of claim 30. Applicants have canceled claims 28 and 30. Applicants submit that the drawings as amended show the features of the invention specified in the claims.

The drawings are objected to because “Filtering Module 110” shown in Fig. 1B and the “Filtering Module 300” shown in Fig. 3 are distinct but similarly named. Applicants have provided a replacement sheet for Fig. 3 changing “Filter Module 300” to “Filter Code 300.” In addition, Applicants have amended the paragraphs beginning on lines 8, 13, and 19 of Page 14 to conform to the amended Fig. 3. Applicants submit that the amendments cure the informality.

Response to objections to specification for introducing new matter

The specification is objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a) for introducing new matter. Applicants have amended the paragraph starting on line 6 of page 11 to remove the reference to the touch screen and the voice recognition system. Applicants submit that the specification as amended contains no new matter.

Response to objections to claims for informalities.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 15, 19, 25, and 26 are objected to for informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 6, 15, 19, and 25 as suggested by the Examiner and submit that the amendments cure the cited informalities for claims 1, 3, 6, 15, 19, and 25. Claim 26 is canceled

Response to rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-18 and 21-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. With regards to claims 1-11, Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove “the” in the phrase “...the unblocked key codes...” In addition, Applicants have amended claim 5 to specify that the “key codes” are of the stream of key codes. Applicants have further amended claim 9 to clarify the functionality of the filtering module is “only” provided by electrical hardware. Claim 10 is amended with the limitation that the “...computer software is executing on a CPU.” Claim 10 as amended. The amendment is fully supported by the specification, which discloses the CPU 210 as part of the key code filter 102 that includes the filtering module 110. Page 12, Lines 3-9; Fig. 1, Refs. 102, 110; Fig. 2, Refs. 102, 210. Applicants submit that these amendments cure the indefiniteness for claims 1-11.

With regards to claims 12-18, Applicants have amended claim 12 to remove “the” in the phrase “...the unblocked key codes...” In addition, Applicants have changed “maintaining” to “testing the key codes with” in claim 12. The amendment is fully supported by the specification, which teaches testing key codes with rules. Page 15, Lines 13-18.

Applicants have amended claim 13 to specify that the “key codes” are “...of the stream of

key codes...” as described above for claim 5. Claim 15 is amended to change “maintaining” with “testing the key codes of the stream of key codes with” as described above for claim 12. The amendment is fully supported by the specification. Page 15, Lines 12-13, 23-25. Applicants have amended claim 16 from “...blocking exclusively with hardware...” to “...blocking using only hardware...” to clarify the claim.

Applicants have amended claim 18 to remove clarify that a memory device stores the rules table. The amendment further clarifies that reprogramming the memory device alters the rules. The amendment is fully supported by the specification, which discloses a memory module 216 storing the rules table 302, make list 304, and block list 306. Page 14, Line 9 – Page 15, Line 2, Figs 2 and 3. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 12, 13, 16, and 18 cure the indefiniteness of claims 12-18.

Applicants have amended claim 21 to clarify that the key code filter tests intercepted key codes with a rules table. The amendment is fully supported by the specification as described above. Page 15, Lines 13-18.

Applicants have amended claim 22 to clarify that the CPU receives key codes from a keyboard and transmits or blocks key codes to a host computer. Claim 22 is also amended to clarify that rules specify key code sets to be blocked or transmitted. In addition, claim 22 is amended to specify that the key code set may be one of a key code, a sequence of key codes, and a combination of key codes. Applicants have also amended claim 23 to clarify that the key codes are the received key codes.

Applicants have amended claims 22 and 24 to clarify that the CPU tests with a rules

table, make list, and block list. The amendment is fully supported by the specification, which discloses the filtering module executing on the CPU 210 testing the key codes. Page 12, Lines 23-25; Fig. 2, Ref. 210. Claim 24 is further amended to clarify that the CPU rather than a filter module performs the described steps. Applicants submit that the amendments cure the indefiniteness of claims 22-24.

Applicants submit that the amendments to the drawings and specification renaming the “filter module 300” to the “filter code 300” cures the indefiniteness of claim 25. Claims 26-30 are canceled.

Response to rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-13 and 15-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants have amended claims 1, 12, 19, 21, 22, and 25 to replace “determining” with “specifying” as the “... rules for certain key codes may be to transmit the key code. The rules for other key codes may be to block those key codes...” as described in the specification. Page 14, Lines 16-17. The rules are used by the filtering module, method, key code filter, and CPU of claims 1, 25, 12, 19, 21, and 22 respectively. Applicants submit that because rules can specify, claims 1-13 and 15-30 comply with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicants have amended claims 22-24 to recite a software program product and to specify that the CPU 210 of Fig. 2 executes a CPU-readable program that causes the CPU to carry out the steps. The amendment is fully supported by the specification, which shows the

CPU 210 included in the key code filter 102. Fig. 2, Refs. 102, 210.

Claims 26-30 are canceled. Applicants submit that amendments and cancellations put the application in the condition of complying with the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Response to rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 1-7, 9-13, 15-27, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mitsuhiro. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 12, 19, 21, 22, and 25 with the limitations "...block only key codes and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table..." Claim 1 as amended. See also claims 12, 19, 21, 22, and 25. The amendment emphasizes that only key codes selected in accordance with the rules table are blocked.

In contrast, Mitsuhiro teaches a lock switch that blocks all inputs from a keyboard so that for example, a user can set items on the keyboard. Mitsuhiro, Page 4, Lines 4-7. Elements 2-4 (code converting means, code converting table, lock controlling means) either block all key codes or transmit all key codes according to the state of the lock switch. Mitsuhiro, Page 4, Lines 17-22. If the lock switch is in a first state, all key codes are discarded. Mitsuhiro, Page 4, Lines 17-20. Lines If the lock switch is in a second state, all key codes are effectively communicated to the computer body. Mitsuhiro, Page 4, Lines 21-22.

Thus Mitsuhiro does not teach blocking only key codes and combinations of key codes of

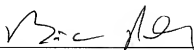
the stream of key codes selected in accordance with the rules table. Instead, Mitsuhiro discloses either blocking all key codes or transmitting all key codes. Applicants therefore assert that claims 1, 12, 19, 21, 22, and 25 are allowable as Mitsuhiro does not teach each element of the claims. Applicants further submit that claims 2-7, 9-11, 13, 15-18, 20, 23, and 24 are allowable as depending from allowable claims. Claims 26, 27, and 29 are canceled

Response to rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8, 28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhiro. Claims 28 and 30 are canceled. Applicants submit that claim 8 is allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

As a result of the presented remarks, Applicants assert that claims 1-13 and 15-25 are in condition for prompt allowance. Should additional information be required regarding the traversal of the rejections of the dependent claims enumerated above, Examiner is respectfully asked to notify Applicants of such need. If any impediments to the prompt allowance of the claims can be resolved by a telephone conversation, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B.C. Kunzler", is written over a horizontal line.

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